

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the existing Abstract with the attached Replacement Abstract provided on a separate sheet of paper.

ABSTRACT

A digital telecommunications system wherein the telecommunications centres of the calling and called terminal are arranged to perform handshaking concerning the speech codec used by the terminals. Depending on the link between the telecommunications centres, the telecommunications centres are arranged to connect call connections past a transcoder unit or to control the transcoder units to let encoded speech through without speech encoding operations in such a way that speech encoding and decoding are carried out only in the terminals. Handshaking between the telecommunications centres is carried out as outband signalling.